



Administering Injections

PHARMACISTS CAN INJECT	PHARMACY TECHNICIANS CAN INJECT
All substances in Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 256/24	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines to individuals 5 years of age and older
Vaccines in Schedule 3 of O. Reg. 256/24 to individuals 5 years of age and older (unless otherwise specified)	Influenza vaccines to individuals 2 years of age and older*
Influenza vaccines to individuals 2 years of age and older*	COVID-19 vaccines to individuals 6 months of age and older
COVID-19 vaccines to individuals 6 months of age and older	

The pharmacist must assess the patient to determine the therapeutic appropriateness of the substance or vaccine prior to administration. This guidance assumes the pharmacy professional has the appropriate training and competencies to administer the injection and is acting in accordance with any limitations outlined in the regulations.

*In accordance with Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP).

FAQ: WHAT IF I AM ASKED TO ADMINISTER AN INJECTION THAT IS NOT LISTED ABOVE?

Pharmacy professionals can inject any substance that is delegated to them by a regulated health professional by direct order or medical directive. Any act or procedure can be delegated, as long it is not prohibited by legislation or organizational policy (e.g., a pharmacy technician does not have the authority to delegate an act or procedure).

DELEGATION — When a regulated health professional authorized to perform a controlled act or procedure grants that authority to someone who is otherwise not authorized to do so. Pharmacy professionals can explore delegation options when it is in the best interest of the patient – such as in time-sensitive situations – in consultation with the patient's other healthcare providers.

→ **DIRECT ORDER —** When a regulated health professional authorizes another individual to perform a controlled act or procedure for *one patient* for a specific intervention. Authorization by direct order can be verbal or written and only occurs after direct assessment of the patient by the authorizer.

Example: A family physician prescribes a travel vaccine for a patient with the direct order "pharmacist (named) to inject." Prior communication about this likely would have occurred. If no pharmacist is named, or in cases of uncertainty, the pharmacist would communicate with the prescriber to confirm the order was intended for them.

→ **MEDICAL DIRECTIVE —** When a regulated health professional provides a written order authorizing specific individuals to perform a procedure, or a series of procedures, under specific conditions for *any patient* who meets predetermined criteria outlined in the directive. Ideally, all those involved in authorizing and implementing procedures under medical directives participate in their development.

Example: A family health team (FHT) collaborates with a neighbouring pharmacy to identify specific criteria and conditions under which pharmacy professionals, named in the medical directive, would be authorized to administer certain vaccines prescribed by healthcare professionals at the FHT.

RESOURCES

- [Injection Training Requirements and Courses](#)
- Printable list of [Schedule 1 substances](#)
- Printable list of [Schedule 3 vaccines](#)
- OCP guideline on [Administering a Substance by Injection](#)
- OCP policy on [Medical Directives and the Delegation of Controlled Acts](#)
- Article: [Delegation of Controlled Acts – Direct Orders and Medical Directives](#)

Note: This document provides an overview of the guidance on administering injections and is intended to supplement not replace what is outlined in the regulations and OCP policies and guidelines.